

# INVESTIGATION

BY THE

## CITY COUNCIL OF SALT LAKE CITY

OF

RUMORS AFFECTING THE PEACE,  
REPUTATION and WELFARE of the CITY  
AND ITS INHABITANTS.

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*SALT LAKE CITY, DECEMBER 8, 1885.*

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# INVESTIGATION

BY THE

## CITY COUNCIL OF SALT LAKE CITY.

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CITY HALL, SALT LAKE CITY,

Saturday, Dec. 5th, 1885.

The City Council met in special session at three o'clock p. m., pursuant to call of the Mayor. Roll called.

Present—Mayor Sharp; Aldermen Speirs, Waddell, Dean, Patrick, Pyper; Councilors Stringfellow, Clark, Webber, Macfarlane, Wells; Attorney Richards.

Absent—Councilors Pettit, Davis, Jennings, Grant.

### OBJECT OF MEETING.

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The Mayor stated that the object of calling a special session was to consider the advisability of the Council's investigating certain rumors that were in circulation affecting the peace and good order of the city and its inhabitants, and which he was informed had been telegraphed to the national authorities in Washington, with a view to securing military interference with the local government.

After various inquiries by the members relative to the nature of the rumors and the impression they had created abroad, and a full and free discussion of the injurious effects likely to result to the community in case they were not thoroughly investigated and the exact truth ascertained and made known, on motion of Alderman Waddell, it was decided that an official investigation of the many current rumors affecting the general welfare of the people of the city be made by the Council, commencing

Monday, December 7th, at ten o'clock a. m.; and that invitations be issued to persons who, there was reason to suppose, had any information concerning the rumors, to be present and make statements.

On motion of Alderman Patrick, the Recorder was instructed to address communications to the following-named gentlemen inviting them to be present at the investigation: His Excellency, Eli H. Murray, Governor of Utah; Hon. Arthur L. Thomas, Secretary; Major-General Alexander McD. McCook, commanding Fort Douglas; Lieutenant S. W. Groesbeck, Post Adjutant; Hon. C. S. Varian, Assistant U. S. Attorney; Hon. E. A. Ireland, U. S. Marshal; Hon. William Jennings, Hon. John Sharp, Hon. Feramor Little, Hon. John Q. Cannon, P. L. Williams, Esq., J. L. Rawlins, Esq.: S. A. Merritt, Esq.

On motion of Councilor Clark, the special session adjourned to Monday, December 7th, at ten o'clock a. m.

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CITY HALL, SALT LAKE CITY,

Monday, Dec. 7th, 1885.

The City Council met pursuant to adjournment in special session.

Roll called. Present—Mayor Sharp; Aldermen Speirs, Waddell, Dean, Patrick, Pyper; Councilors Stringfellow, Clark, Weber, Pettit, Macfarlane, Wells, Grant; Attorney Richards. Absent—Councilors Davis and Jennings.

The minutes of the special session of December 5th, were read and approved.

The following report was submitted:

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 7th, 1885.

*The Hon. the Mayor and City Council:*

*Gentlemen*—I have the honor to report to you that in compliance with your instructions of the 5th inst., I have forwarded to the gentlemen named by you each a communication, of which the subjoined is a copy:

*"Sir*—At a special session of the City Council of Salt Lake City, held Saturday, December 5th, it was decided that an official investigation of the rumors in circulation at the present time affecting the peace and welfare of the city and its inhabitants be had, com-

mening Monday, December 7th, at 10 a m. I am directed to respectfully invite you to attend said investigation, and to furnish the Council any information concerning the matter that you may be in possession of."

Very respectfully,

HEBER M. WELLS,

Recorder.

On motion of Councilor Stringfellow, the Recorder's report was accepted and approved.

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The following communications were read :

FORT DOUGLAS, Dec. 6th, 1885.

*Heber M. Wells, City Recorder, Salt Lake City, Utah:*

*Sir*—Referring to your communication of yesterday, requesting my presence at an official investigation ordered by the City Council concerning the origin of certain rumors "affecting the peace and welfare of the city," I have the honor, in reply, to say that I can only communicate facts coming to my knowledge in my official capacity to and through my superior officer

As to personal knowledge of said rumors and their origin, I know nothing which to me seems of material value, or could aid the Council in its work.

While appreciating the courtesy extended, I beg you will consider that in declining to appear as requested, I am acting within the customary and legal restraints of my office.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. W. GROESBECK,

First Lieut., Adjt. Sixth Infantry and Post.

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OFFICE U. S. ATTORNEY,

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 7th, 1885.

*Heber M. Wells, Esq., City Recorder, Salt Lake City:*

*Sir*—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, late yesterday afternoon, of your communication of Saturday's date, wherein you inform me that the City Council had decided "that an official investigation of the rumors in circulation at the present time, affecting the peace and welfare of the city and its inhabitants" be had, commencing Monday, December 7th, at 10 o'clock a. m., and that you were directed to request my attendance upon the occasion of said investigation, and that I furnish the Council any information I possess concerning the matter.

In reply thereto I have to request that you be pleased to communicate to the Honorable the City Council my respectful acknowledgment of the Council's invitation. I regret to say that the obligations of office will prevent me from disclosing at the present time any information possessed by the District Attorney relative to the subject mentioned. Be also pleased to convey to the Council my desire to be advised of any facts which can aid the office in its endeavors to secure the public tranquillity and enforce the laws.

Very respectfully,

C. S. VARIAN,

Asst. U. S. Attorney.

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TERRITORY OF UTAH,  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
SALT LAKE CITY,

December 6th, 1885.

*Sir*—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, in which you state that "at a special meeting of the City Council of Salt Lake," held last night, "it was decided that an official investigation of the rumors in circulation at the present time affecting the peace and welfare of the city, etc., be had," and inviting me to attend, and to furnish the Council any information concerning the matter that I may be in possession of. I have to state that I have for several days been engaged in investigating and communicating for the information of the President the condition of affairs pertaining to the peace and welfare of the people of this city in common with other parts of the Territory, and to say that I am pleased to know that the Council of this city propose to investigate the matter. I beg that you will say to the Council that I will be gratified to receive from that body any facts bearing on the subject that may be of service to the President, the Governor, or the District Attorney, who is charged with the duty of the prosecution of offenses against the laws of the United States and of Utah, and that it will be my pleasure at all times to support the Mayor in his efforts to preserve the peace and in upholding the law.

Respectfully,

ELI H. MURRAY,

Governor.

*To Heber M. Wells, Esq., City Recorder.*

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UTAH TERRITORY,  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 7th 1885.

*Sir*—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated Dec. 5th, 1885, inviting me, on behalf of the City Council, to be present at a special meeting of that body, called

to investigate "the rumors in circulation at the present time affecting the peace and welfare of the city and its inhabitants." and to return my thanks for the same.

Please say to the gentlemen of the Council that I have no information bearing upon the subject mentioned, other than that which is now in possession of the Governor.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,

ARTHUR L. THOMAS,

Secretary of Utah Territory.

*Heber M. Wells, Esq., City Recorder.*

On motion of Councilor Wells, the communications were ordered to be filed.

On motion of Councilor Clark, it was decided to proceed with the investigation, by requesting those present having any information on the subject to make their statements and be interrogated, beginning with his Honor the Mayor.

The Mayor thereupon called Alderman Patrick to the chair, and made the following statement:

#### STATEMENT OF MAYOR SHARP.

*Mr. Chairman*—I wish to lay before the Council, officially, all the information that is in my possession in relation to certain rumors that have been circulated affecting the welfare of the citizens of Salt Lake City. During the afternoon of Monday last, a week ago, a rumor reached me that there was great excitement in the city over certain events that had transpired, or were transpiring then. The first rumor that reached me was that it had been reported to the U. S. District Attorney and others that before daylight last Monday morning bodies of armed men, supposed to be Mormons, had been seen coming into Salt Lake City, one troop passing up West Temple Street, numbering nine, I believe, reported to be on horseback, and going in the neighborhood of the Temple block, or thereabouts. The party who told me of this first was Mr. P. L. Williams, who stated that he had just heard it. I thanked him for the information, and told him I would investigate the matter and set the City Marshal on the track of the rumor, and with the police force try to find out if there was any truth in the report. I told him I did not believe that parties of armed men could come into this city on Sunday night, or any other night, without the knowledge of the officers of the city. Another rumor reached me to the effect that armed men lined the road to the penitentiary for the purpose of taking Collin from the



custody of the U. S. Marshal. Other rumors were in circulation that I could not trace up, and I came down to the Hall here and set the Marshal on the track of these rumors, and told him to report to me as early as possible. He looked the matter up that afternoon and evening, and reported to me on Tuesday morning the result of his investigation, which he will also lay before the Council. I thought it advisable on Tuesday morning, on consultation with City Attorney Richards, to visit His Excellency the Governor in relation to these rumors. It was about 11 o'clock on Tuesday when the City Attorney and myself visited the Governor. We had about one hour's conversation with him, and told him what we had heard in relation to this rumor of armed men, and what the City Marshal had ascertained in investigating the matter. I told the Governor that we had found out in our investigation that there was not a shadow of truth in the report that armed men had come into the city; that there was not a shadow of truth in the report that armed men lined the way to the penitentiary. There was no truth in the report that the Mormons, or any other citizens of Salt Lake City, contemplated, in any manner, so far as we could find out, to attempt to take Deputy Marshal Collin from the possession of the U. S. Marshal. I told the Governor there was no cause for removing Deputy Marshal Collin from the penitentiary to the military post. Furthermore, I told the Governor that, so far as the city government were concerned, we found no fault with the action of Marshal Ireland in relation to holding the prisoner; but the only question that arose in our minds was whether Deputy Marshal Collin, who is supposed to have done the shooting on the previous Saturday night, was really in the custody of the officers of the law, and not as to the class of officers that had him in charge; and we did not now contemplate the possession of the prisoner. I also stated that so far as my experience in investigating this matter, and the facts I had gleaned were concerned, that there was no apprehension on the part of the people of this city of any kind of uprising whatever; that there was no danger of any interference with any process of law of any court of the United States in the Territory, from the local government of the city, or from anybody else, and that the prisoner was perfectly safe at the Post, and nobody proposed to interfere with him; that he was equally as safe at the penitentiary, and would have been equally as safe in the city jail, had he been placed there.

After going all over this ground, the Governor, in expressing his views on the situation, said in return that he now believed these rumors without foundation in fact, and that the public mind was unnecessarily excited on the question; that there was no danger. He said that he of course was on the side of peace, as we all were on the side of peace; that he would use his best offices in allaying any excitement that might have grown out of the affair of the Saturday night previous. I concluded this excitement was than allayed and that there would be nothing further in the matter, but last Friday



afternoon, General McCook came down specially to see the Mayor to inquire into the situation. We talked the situation over then as we had talked it over with the Governor. In addition to the rumor of armed men, he had another charge. He said that information had come to him direct that arms were stored by the Mormon people in the loft of the Tithing Office, and they were to arm the people and prepare them for some sort of uprising that might happen. I told him that I thought the excitement was allayed, but I would with pleasure go with him to the Tithing Office immediately and ascertain if Bishop Preston was at home and investigate this rumor. I accompanied General McCook to the Tithing Office, but Bishop Preston was not there. I told the General that I would ascertain if he would be home on Saturday, and if so, I would telephone him at the Post, and he could come down, and we would make an examination. I learned on Saturday morning that Bishop Preston would not be in the city for two or three days. I then asked Attorney Richards to see Mr. John Q. Cannon, who, in the absence of Bishop Preston, had charge of the Tithing Office, and request him to allow us to proceed through and examine the premises and ascertain if there was any foundation in fact in relation to the rumor. Mr. Richards informed me that he went to see Mr. Cannon immediately, and Mr. Cannon said he would with pleasure show the Mayor and General or any other person through the building. I then telephoned General McCook. He came down, and with his Adjutant we proceeded, and Mr. Cannon kindly showed us through the building into the mysterious loft where those arms were supposed to be stored. In our examination we found nothing whatever except some twenty or thirty, or perhaps forty, old muskets that stood up against the wall, without locks, flints (they were old flint-lock guns) or ramrods, the accumulation of Mormon emigrants or the Mormon Battalion. These were the only arms that could be found stored at the Tithing Office. I assured General McCook that so far as I could ascertain, there was no feeling of unrest among the people or any danger whatever of an uprising of any kind, and I said that I had concluded all excitement had died out; but in view of these later rumors I thought an official investigation would be advisable. On Saturday, about three o'clock, I called the Council together, and we talked the matter over, and this meeting is the result.

Question by Councilor Stringfellow: Did the Governor, or any other officers or persons name the parties that reported these rumors?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ask him the question?

A. Well, I cannot recollect whether I did or not. However, the Governor gave us the name of the District Attorney.

Q. You stated that Mr. P. L. Williams told you that he had heard of these armed men: did he tell you who told him?

A. He stated, if I mistake not, that Mr. J. L. Rawlins had

either heard of or seen something of this body of men coming into town. Mr. Rawlins was therefore invited to attend this meeting.

By Mr. Richards: I see that Mr. Rawlins is present, and as his time may be limited, I would suggest that he be invited to make a statement at once.

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### STATEMENT OF J. L. RAWLINS, ESQ.

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I recollect that I stated that I had heard somebody say they had heard of this party of men coming to town on Sunday night or Monday morning. I was not out on Sunday night making an inspection of the city; and I saw no men coming into town, but I simply heard a rumor to that effect, which I probably mentioned to Mr. Williams.

By the Mayor: Have you any information in relation to this rumor you wish to give to the Council?

A. I have no information at all on the subject. I considered it a mere rumor. I do not know how the rumor originated, and have no information in regard to it whatever.

By Councilor Grant: Mr. Rawlins, can you give us the names of the parties who told you, so that we can trace it back?

A. I am not entirely certain; I heard of armed men coming down West Temple Street; someone mentioned it to me in the court room. I am not entirely certain, but it may have been Commissioner McKay. It was someone in the court room.

Q. Did the party who told you say that he had seen them?

A. No, he said he had heard of it.

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### STATEMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY RICHARDS.

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*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Council*—I do not think it will be necessary for me to go over the ground that has been covered by the Mayor. I can corroborate the statements that he has made, so far as he has referred to me as having been associated with him in these matters.

Last Monday afternoon I was informed by the Mayor of the rumor as to armed men coming into town, and I took measures to obtain information from the east as to what had been communicated there. I found that it had been telegraphed, and published by the eastern press that parties of armed men were lining the roads from the city to the penitentiary, and that great fears were entertained that the man Collin, who had shot McMurrin on Saturday night, would be lynched, and that he had been taken to Fort Douglas for protection. I have not the dispatch with me now, but I think it went to

the extent of intimating that the lives and property of non-Mormons were in jeopardy. Soon after the rumor reached the Mayor of bodies of armed men coming into the city in the night, he communicated the same to me, and said he had just heard it. In my presence he called the City Marshal's attention to it, and the Marshal proceeded at once to investigate the rumor, and he will state the result. We communicated to the City Marshal all that we had heard concerning the rumors, and the information I had received from the east, and he was requested by the Mayor to make an investigation, and find out all that he could in relation to the matter. On Tuesday morning we were informed by the Marshal that there were no grounds for the rumors; that he had followed them up as far as possible, but could find no one who had seen any armed men coming into the city. We then came to the conclusion, as the Mayor has said, that the proper thing for us to do was to go and see the Governor of the Territory, and communicate to him these facts. We did so, and had a very long and apparently satisfactory interview with the Governor. He did not attempt to conceal from us the fact that there was considerable agitation on the streets, especially among non-Mormons. The Mayor told him what steps had been taken to ascertain the correctness of the rumors. It finally resulted in the Governor's declaring, as has been stated here, that he thought the rumors were entirely without foundation. He considered there was no necessity for any interference; he had done what he had in reference to getting the military to take charge of Collin in the interest of good government, and to prevent any possible occasion for a collision. He thought everything was all right, and that there was no occasion for alarm; such was the understanding we had when we left him. He said the newspapers were a little too sensational, and he thought it would be a good idea for us to use any influence we might have in trying to keep them from inflaming the public mind, which we agreed to do, and called his attention to the fact that sensational stories were not confined to Mormon newspapers. He assented to the truth of this statement, and promised to exercise his influence on the other side to prevent sensational reports.

In regard to the matter of examining the Tithing Office. On Saturday morning, the Mayor came to me about 10 o'clock and told me that General McCook had reported to him that a rumor had reached Fort Douglas about arms being stored in the Tithing Office. He asked me to go and see whoever had charge of the Tithing Office in the absence of Bishop Preston, and tell him that General McCook would like to go through and examine the building. I went and found Mr. John Q. Cannon, and requested him to allow the examination to be made. He said he would like very much to show the General the arms, and asked if I would like to go through the building then and see the "armory?" I wished to see the place before there was time to make any change whatever, so he took

me up stairs, and exhibited just what the Mayor has stated. There was no gun there, I suppose, that under any circumstance could be fired off without it had first received very extensive repairs. I reported the matter to the Mayor, and he sent for General McCook to come down and make the examination. We found everything in exactly the same condition as when I saw it first, and the General became satisfied there was no foundation for the rumor. I remarked that no man would be foolhardy enough to attempt to fire off any of the arms there. The General replied that the only danger would be to the man who stood at the breech. It was a matter of considerable amusement.

I would also state, in reference to the interview with the Governor, that he intimated, among other things, that there were rumors afloat that prominent members of the Mormon Church were encouraging organizations of the people and preparations for an outbreak, or something of that sort. We told him we had already had an intimation of such a rumor, and that we had seen some of the prominent members of the Mormon Church, and, so far as we could ascertain, there was no truth in the report; that everyone of the Mormon officials and others whom we had seen, disclaimed any knowledge of such a condition of affairs, and gave it as their opinion, without any qualification, that there was no foundation in fact for any such rumor. We talked the matter all over fully with the Governor, and this, with what the Mayor reported, is the substance of our interview. I have never seen any one that could say he knew these things to be so, but in every instance someone had been told that somebody else had heard something of that sort.

By Alderman Waddell: Did His Excellency tell you of a rumor of armed men gathering and drilling somewhere near the City?

A. Yes, sir; he said, if I remember correctly, that in some settlement in this County, in the night time, I think, men had gathered together at the tolling of a bell. I think he said armed men. We tried to find out what settlement it was reported to have occurred in, but could not. He said it was given to him in confidence. At any rate, we could get no information on that point.

I would also say, that we tried to find out the sources of these rumors from the Governor, but in some instances he was reticent, and withheld the information as a matter of confidence; in other instances he referred us to Mr. Varian for information as to some matters which the City Marshal will speak about. In every instance where the names of informants were given, they have been seen. Believing the little excitement which had existed was allayed, we could not well urge the Governor to disclose the names of his informants. We were not aware at that time that any official action had been taken by the Governor; it was a public rumor, and that was all



he knew of it; and if we could keep the newspapers from inflaming the public mind, we presumed that everything would remain quiet.

By Councilor Stringfellow: Did he say that he thought there was no foundation for those rumors?

A. Yes, sir; I so understood him.

By Councilor Clark: Did you ascertain from your conversation with the Governor who telegraphed these things to Washington when it was found there was no truth in them?

A. No, sir; we were given to understand that no official telegrams were being sent.

By Councilor Webber: He intimated that he was going to allay any friction that might exist, did he not?

A. Yes, sir; and claimed that what he had done was to prevent an outbreak that was liable to happen in this city.

By Alderman Waddell: Have you heard of a rumor of the quartering of a company of troops in the centre of the city? (One of the members replied that the troops were already here.)

Q. Have you any information, official or otherwise, that would lead you to believe that such a course is necessary?

A. No, sir; I do not believe that such a thing is necessary. I am satisfied there is no necessity existing for it. There is no reason whatever for military interference, or the quartering of troops in Salt Lake City. I say this after having spent a whole week in investigating these matters. Although everything seemed quiet, we still kept up our investigation, and have found there was no foundation in fact for the rumors.

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#### STATEMENT OF BISHOP CANNON.

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*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Council*—Respecting this rumor that arms were stored at the Tithing Office, I can only say in substance what has been said by the Mayor and City Attorney Richards, that there is no truth in the matter further than that there are some twenty or thirty, or even forty old muskets. The Adjutant seemed to have information, definite information, as to the number of arms that were stored in that building, and he referred to it once or twice in our conversation when we showed him through the building. We did not make any inspection of the cellars, neither did he want to, though I invited him and the General. I also told them we had an old slaughter house in the yard that was not used, which would be naturally a pretty good place to store arms, and where previously these old muskets were stored. They did not care to investigate any further, and left. As to the rumor that there are arms stored there, I am perfectly free to declare any such rumor false. I do not believe, as the City Attorney has said, that there is a single weapon in the place, except perhaps a shot gun belonging to one of

the clerks, that could be shot off without more danger to the man who fired it than to the man who stood in front of the weapon. There is an old piece of artillery, the famous "Old Sow," standing out there in this weather, but I do not believe any man has temerity enough to fire that thing off. Further than this, I have no information to communicate. I should not wish to insult the intelligence of this Council by referring to that. I consider these as simply street rumors, started as all such things will, and when you undertake to find out the source that any one of them came from, you have a great labor to perform. Any other information I can give I will do so cheerfully, and if the Council or anyone else wants to investigate that building from cellar to garret, I will take pleasure in showing them through.

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### STATEMENT OF CITY MARSHAL PHILLIPS.

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*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Council*—Last Monday afternoon the Mayor sent for me and told me that it had been reported to him that there were bodies of armed men coming into the city, and that they had been coming in all the night previous, and asked me if I had heard anything of it. I said I had not, and asked him where he got his information. He told me that Mr. P. L. Williams had informed him in relation to the matter. I called on Mr. Williams, and Mr. Williams told me where he got his information. I went to see this party but could not find him. Seeing I could not do so, I went to the Governor, and asked him if these things had been reported to him, and he said they had. I asked him who had reported them to him. Well, he told me he could not tell exactly, but some of the government officials had reported them to him. I asked if he could not name some of them. He said Mr. Varian, Assistant United States Attorney, had been talking to him. Mr. Varian and United States Marshal Ireland were seen coming down the street at the time, and they, the Governor and myself walked over to Mr. Varian's office. I asked Mr. Ireland if he was going to move Collin from the penitentiary to Fort Douglas, and he said he had already done so; General McCook had sent a squad of men down with a commissioned officer, and they had taken Collin from the penitentiary to Fort Douglas for safe keeping. I asked him if he thought there was any danger in Collin's remaining at the penitentiary. He said, it was reported that armed men lined the road to the penitentiary. I asked him if he had been to the penitentiary that day, and he said he had. I asked if he saw anything of these armed men along the road, and he said he had not. He then said that he thought probably the authorities here were going to try to take Collin out of the penitentiary. I asked him what authorities, and he said the city authorities. I asked him why he thought so, after the talk we had together the



day before. I will here say that Marshal Ireland and I talked the matter over the day before, on Sunday. The substance of our conversation at that time was as follows: I told Mr. Ireland I was perfectly satisfied that he should hold Collin, though seeing I had the first warrant, I had inclined to the belief at first that I had the prior right. He then asked me what I intended to do with the warrant for Collin's arrest. I told him I should return it "not found." He then asked me what the consequence of that would be. I replied that the warrant would be filed with the affidavit then in possession of the Justice of the Peace and that would be the end of the matter. At our later conversation—on Monday—the Marshal said to me he did not remember that we had any talk in relation to the matter at all. I told him I could bring it to his remembrance; I related the conversation we had on Sunday, and he said he then remembered it. I said, "Marshal, did I ever deceive you? Did I ever tell you an untruth? Why did you think that the city authorities were going to take Collin away from the penitentiary after what I had said in regard to that warrant." He replied, "I didn't think about that." I told him I didn't know how he could help thinking of it, when it was the last thing we talked of. The Governor said it had been reported to him through the day that people were coming into town on horseback, in wagons and on foot, armed. I asked him where he got his information about it. He said, "Mr. Varian can tell you." I turned to Mr. Varian and said, "You are just the man I am looking for." Mr. Varian said Mr. Van Horn of the Continental Hotel saw about a dozen men coming into town on horseback, armed to the teeth. I asked if he knew of anything else. He said he did not, or it did not occur to him then. The Governor went on to state that it had been reported to him that in the little settlements near the city, at the blowing of a horn or the tolling of a bell, the people would rush out, armed, with the understanding that when the horn blew or the bell tolled they were to make a rush to Salt Lake City to protect the Mormons. I asked how he knew this; and he said he had been credibly informed by a man whose veracity he could not doubt. He said it was impossible for him to doubt the man. I asked him what his name was, but the Governor would not tell me. That was all the information I could get from him. Then Mr. Varian said to me, "You know how it was on Saturday night; they had a rope in front of the City Hall, and would have lynched Collin if he had been brought there." I asked, "Can you tell me of anyone who saw the rope?" He replied, "Yes, my hired girl's brother." I then left them, as I could not get any more information from them, and came down to the Hall, and started the officers down to see Mr. Van Horn. The officers came back and reported to me that Mr. Van Horn said he had heard the report several times during the day, but had seen nothing of the men himself, and knew nothing about the matter, and that the report was entirely false. He said he had made no such observation at all, and to use his own language,

"The man who says so is a liar." The next morning I sent an officer down to Mr. Varian's house to see his hired girl, to ascertain where we could find her brother, if she had one. She said his name was Thomas Curtis, and he lived in the Third Ward. The officer came back, and I sent him to the Third Ward, and told him not to come back until he found Thomas Curtis. He found Thomas Curtis; and the young man said he had not been away from the house two blocks Saturday night, and did not know of the shooting until 9 or 10 o'clock on Sunday morning. So that stopped there. That was all the information we could get. I would say that wherever we have heard anything of these rumors we have sent officers to investigate the matter, and invariably we have found, when we have got to the bottom of it, there was nothing in them. I thought, to leave nothing unturned, on Tuesday afternoon, I would get in my buggy and go down the boulevard, going to the penitentiary, and inquire all along the road of all I could see, men, women and boys—for my experience is that boys often see things that men don't—to see if any one had seen any men hiding behind the fences, with guns, or hiding behind the dried sunflowers along the road, with guns or pistols, but they all told me they had not. I came back by the State Road and made inquiries along that road, but no one had seen anything of men with arms.

By City Attorney Richards: Did Mr. Ireland say who had reported these things to him?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ask him?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And he declined to tell you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was the party that Mr. Williams referred you to?

A. Mr. Rawlins; he said Mr. Rawlins had first heard of it in the "Alta Club Room."

Q. The Governor refused to give you any information as to what settlements these things he told you of occurred in?

A. Yes, sir, he did. He said he had got it in confidence from a man whose reputation for veracity was good.

By Councilor Clark—Did you find out who it was that telegraphed these rumors east?

A. I asked the Governor if there were any dispatches being sent east or west. He said No, not by him. I asked if he knew of any. He said he did not. I asked the Governor if he believed these rumors. He said he thought there was something in them at first, but he did not believe them now. He said that before we parted.

Q. Do you know of any excitement in the city that would justify any person in telegraphing this east or west?

A. No, sir.

Another thing: We started to find out where these horsemen stopped. Horsemen coming into a place like this, we thought

they would stop and bait. We inquired at all the livery stables where they would be likely to stop, but could find nothing of them, nor hear anything about them anywhere. I would say another thing in relation to the excitement on Saturday night: there was not at any time to exceed two hundred men about the Hall. Thinking there might possibly be some trouble, I placed some officers in the crowd. I asked these officers if they had heard anyone make threats of what they would do, and they told me they had not. I put five or six officers there, some of them special policemen, thinking an ounce of prevention was worth a pound of cure.

By Alderman Waddell.—Was the crowd greater than usual, under such circumstances?

A. I have seen almost as many people gather over a little fist fight.

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On motion of Councilor Wells, the Recorder was instructed to issue special invitations to U. S. Commissioner McKay, Mr. Van Horn, Thomas Curtis, and also to Apostles Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, John Henry Smith, Heber J. Grant and John W. Taylor to attend the afternoon session.

On motion of Councilor Grant, a recess was taken till 2 p. m.

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At 2 o'clock p. m., the session was resumed, Mayor Sharp

The Recorder reported as follows: "Pursuant to your instructions of this morning, I have addressed communications to the gentlemen named, inviting them to be present at this investigation, to-day, at 2 p. m."

On motion of Alderman Patrick, the report was approved.

The following communication was read:

UNITED STATES MARSHAL'S OFFICE,  
UTAH-TERRITORY,  
SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 7th, 1885.

*Heber M. Wells, Esq., City Recorder:*

Sir—your communication of the 5th inst., regarding the proposed investigation of the City Council of the matters affecting the peace and welfare of the City and its inhabitants, is received. I would respectfully say to the Honorable City Council, through you, that my official duties are such as to preclude the possibility of my

being present. I would state further, that were I present, I could not consistently advise you further than what is already before you and perhaps a matter of public notoriety.

Very Respectfully,

E. A. IRELAND,

U. S. Marshal.

On Motion of Councilor Webber, the communication was ordered to be filed.

A number of the persons to whom special invitations were issued being present, the Mayor stated to them the object of this investigation, and the reason the invitations had been issued, and requested Apostle Lorenzo Snow to make any statement he desired in relation to the rumors in question.

#### STATEMENT OF APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW.

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I will say to the Hon. Mayor and gentlemen of the City Council, I was surprised to receive this invitation to attend the council, which I have scarcely had time to read. I hardly know what statement to make. I have been absent for from six to nine months. The last two or three weeks I have spent at Brigham City. I have heard of no dissention or uprising, and know of no revolution or disposition to resist the laws of our country. So far as I know, the people seem disposed to obey every requisition that is made of them, and have no inclination whatever to resist. Perhaps I might speak personally in reference to myself, and my feelings and actions in regard to this matter. I have been quietly keeping away from what I considered a disposition or intention on the part of the federal officers to arrest me, and where I expected to receive no justice whatever, I thought it policy on my part to keep quietly away, without inconveniencing myself. When I was arrested in Brigham City, it was rumored there was some little manifestation on the part of some few individuals to take me from the marshal, but there was no such intention; it was a perfectly false report. At the same time, in connection with this rumor, I instructed the people that such demonstrations were not wise. There was no such disposition or desire whatever. There has not been any cause in Brigham City or other place where I have been, or disposition manifested in my presence for any such manifestations, and I have heard of none. I do not know that I perfectly understand the full intent of this inquiry; but perhaps I shall as you proceed further, and shall be pleased to communicate anything further I can when I understand the object.

The Mayor here explained that rumors were afloat in relation to armed men, supposed to be Mormons, having come into town, and it

was reported a quantity of arms were stored at the Tithing Office in case of an uprising.

Councilor Grant remarked that it was reported that the leaders of the Mormon people were encouraging the organization of parties in the settlements, who at the ringing of a bell would rush to Salt Lake City, to defend the Mormons.

Apostle Snow: In answer to that, I can say that I know of no such organization. There has been no such thing where I have been for the past six or nine months, as parties organizing or arming themselves, or brushing up their arms. As to bodies of armed men coming into this city I know nothing about that. This is the first I have heard of this rumor.

By City Attorney Richards. I would like to ask, Mr. Snow, if you are aware of any member of the Mormon church, officially or otherwise, advising or counselling the people to make any such preparations?

A. I have never heard of anything of the kind; never heard of any such instructions. None of those instructions have ever been given in my presence.

Q. You have never heard of such instructions?

A. No, sir.

Q. So far as you know, nothing of that sort has occurred?

A. No, sir; so far as I know.

#### STATEMENT OF APOSTLE FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS.

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Council*—I will say that I have no idea of arms being provided to any person intending to use them, even in defense of themselves against illegal processes or for any reason whatsoever. I heard a report some few days ago, that it was thought by some outsiders that there were some arms deposited somewhere in or about the Tithing Office or Tithing yard; but I heard almost simultaneously with this of a determination on the part of public men to look into the matter and see if such was the case. I have heard that General McCook and other leading men visited the Tithing premises, and satisfied themselves that nothing existed of that kind there. As to the rumors, I could not tell you how they got afloat; I simply heard them as passing rumors. I saw in the newspapers an account of an investigation being had, but I know of no individuals having armed themselves, or any apprehension of anything of the sort since I arrived in this place. The latest I have heard of any excitement of that character was some years ago



when acting Governor Black at that time, undertook to prosecute a band of boys who were playing with a lot of wooden swords on the bench. Perhaps your honor may have heard of it. Since that time I have heard of no excitement of a military character. My residence, while in the city, is in the Seventeenth Ward, and in passing to and from my place of business I pass in the vicinity of the Tithing Office, yet I have never seen anything that looked suspicious.

Now, as to my observations and experience in the Territory, I will say that for several months past I have gone out almost weekly and attended conference in the various counties of Utah Davis, Cache, and others. I have attended the conferences of our people, which are held quarterly in each Stake, and of course occur very frequently. In all of these meetings I have carefully observed to see if there was any instruction given, or any innuendos offered by which the sentiment could be conveyed to the people that they were to arm or organize themselves, on any account whatever. I have never heard anything of the kind. I have often heard it urged upon them that they should, in these times when many things are conducted by some officials in a careless, overbearing manner—I have heard it urged upon the people that they should be exceedingly careful to treat public officials properly, and not commit any act that could be construed as a violation of law, as an interference or hindrance to any proper action of the officers in any of their processes. I know, from my own experience, that, instead of there being any intention to prepare for an uprising or insurrection, or rebellion, there is nothing of the kind contemplated at all that has come under my observation. On the contrary, I have faith in the people that they are trying to be very careful to avoid anything of the kind.

By Councilor Stringfellow: Being a prominent leader in the Church, do you know of any such instructions or advice given to the Mormon people, either in the country or in the city, to combine or unite together, and procure arms and to be ready for action at a moment's notice?

A. No, sir; I have no such information; I have heard no such counsel. I am not aware of any intention of that kind.

By City Attorney Richards: Do you know of any organizations existing of that character among the Mormon people in this city or elsewhere?

A. I do not know of any—anywhere I have traveled.

By Councilor Stringfellow: Are you aware of any such idea, as at the ringing of a bell, or sound of a bugle, the people would rally to Salt Lake City—understanding there was an uprising, and the people were to gather together to resist the Government?

A. I have heard of no such thing until this morning.

By City Attorney Richards: Do you know of any state of facts existing that tends in its character to render insecure the lives



and property of citizens of this city, whether belonging to the Mormon Church or not?

A. I do not.

## STATEMENT OF APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH.

*Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council:* I will say that probably no man in the country knows more in regard to the condition of the people in the Territory than I do. I have been in almost every county in the Territory within the past few weeks or months, and if ever there was a people without excitement and perfectly cool, it is the people of Utah. There is absolutely no excitement in the country. About nine months ago there was a little buzz of excitement, and people running away rather than be arrested, but latterly it is perfectly dead, the people are going about their business. I have not been to the extreme south; I have been as far as Cedar City. This feeling prevails throughout the whole country. The courts are carrying on their business, and nobody wants to interfere with them. As far as arms are concerned, I always go armed. I have a pocket knife with four blades, and I always carry it, and mean to unless some one takes it away from me. I think I have been giving counsel more largely than any other member of the Twelve, and I have always talked "peace talk;" and advised the people, under every circumstance, to behave themselves. I do not think there was any necessity for my giving them this advice, for I do not think the Mormon people are at all warlike in their inclinations. All, as far as I am able to judge, is quiet in every respect.

By City Attorney Richards: Do you know of any advice having been given by any one else, for the people to organize and arm themselves?

A. No, sir; there has not been any such counsel given to the people since the days of the Indian raids. At that time, the people were counseled to be prepared to defend and protect themselves. But from that time to this, there has been no such counsel given.

Q. Do you know of any disposition on the part of the Mormon people to provoke any conflict with the general Government, by armed resistance; or by force to resist any process of law, or to interfere with the lives or liberty or property of non-Mormons?

A. Not in the least; but on the contrary, the feeling of the people is to protect every man in his rights and liberties to the uttermost, but not to interfere with any person in any sense whatever.

Q. Do you know of any such organizations as have been spoken of here, existing either in this city or elsewhere?

A. The only ones I know anything about are such as the Primary and Mutual Improvement organizations, which are preparing

our children to become competent citizens. There has been no instruction given anywhere, (and I have been east, west, north, and south) looking to the organization of men with any idea of using force to resist the Government.

Q. You state there has been no instructions given to this effect, so far as your knowledge extends, but have the people acted upon that idea without instructions?

A. No, sir; I do not think they have. There are no such organizations in the country.

By Councilor Stringfellow: If there were any such things existing, you are in a position to know of it?

A. Yes, sir; I would know of it. But there is no such thing where I have been traveling.

By City Attorney Richards: Your knowledge as to these matters also extends to the city?

A. Yes, sir.

#### STATEMENT OF APOSTLE JOHN W. TAYLOR.

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Council*—I can add nothing at all to what has been said. I have no information whatever bearing on this matter. I would say that I always keep arms in my own house. I always have three or four pieces of fire arms, as I take great pleasure in hunting, greater even than I do in attending a sitting of the City Council.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. A. H. RALEIGH.

*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Council*—I was surprised when I heard of some of these things. I have looked upon the matter in this way: That the Latter-day Saints in this spiritual warfare, are expecting to conquer by the force of intellect, by the force of intelligence, and not by carnal weapons. I have heard these rumors, and have read the newspapers, but not the slightest ground exists for believing these rumors to be true.

#### STATEMENT OF BISHOP JOHN SHARP.

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Council*—I do not think that it is really necessary for me to say anything after what has been

said. I have been well acquainted with the people of this city for a long series of years; and I do not think that anything in the shape of armed resistance can have any existence among the people. I would be very apt to know of it; and I don't know of any. In fact, I haven't heard of much excitement except in the newspapers. I have heard of a great deal of news having been telegraphed east to the leaders of this nation, but I have really not put myself to any trouble to find out what it was. I have learned more of its effects here than anywhere else. For instance, there is a little item—a battery of artillery, from Omaha, came here on Monday and a company of troops have been quartered in the city.

By City Attorney Richards: Do you know of any disposition on the part of the Mormon Church to provoke any conflict with the Government, or to encourage any armed resistance to the service of process, or any thing of that sort?

A. I have heard and seen a good many of the Apostles lately, and some little time ago, the President of the Church, but the only counsel I have heard him or them give was not to create any trouble or violence whatever.

Q. Have you any information that leads you to believe that the lives and property of non-Mormons are insecure?

A. I am in possession of no information that would lead me to believe anything of the kind.

Q. Do you know of anything, or of any state of facts that would justify you in the opinion that military interference, or any interference on the part of the general Government is necessary?

A. No, sir.

Q. You know of nothing but that the city government is perfectly capable of preserving the peace and good order of the city?

A. No, sir; nothing whatever.

By City Attorney Richards: Mr. Mayor, I understand that Mr. Thomas Curtis is present; perhaps he will make a statement.

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## STATEMENT OF THOMAS CURTIS.

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By the Mayor: Mr. Curtis, are you a relative of the lady who lives at Mr. Varians?

A. Yes, sir; I am her brother.

Q. You are reported to the city authorities as being the individual who, on the evening that the shooting of McMurrin occurred, was in the crowd that was gathered at the City Hall, and saw a rope in the possession of some one, and heard threats made of lynching Collin. Is this correct?

A. No, sir, it is not correct. I was not up town last Saturday night at all.

Q. When did you first hear of the shooting?

A. On Sunday morning, about eight o'clock. I was not up here at all on Saturday night.

Q. Did you tell your sister anything of the kind?

A. No, sir.

## STATEMENT OF APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT.

*Mr. Mayor*—Having traveled extensively throughout the Territory of late years, I can state that I know of no such organizations from one end of the Territory to the other as those in question. Within the past two years, I have been through our settlements in Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado; and in no place among the Latter-day Saints have I any knowledge of any bodies of armed men, or any men drilling, or have I any knowledge of where there are half a dozen guns together in any place. So far as counsel or advice is concerned, there has never been any given to the people for them to arm themselves; but, on the contrary, to my knowledge, the people have been advised and counselled to submit to these things, and not to resist the officers. If a man cannot get out of the road of persecution, and the Marshal attempts to serve a subpoena upon him, the counsel and instruction of the Quorum of the Twelve is not to resist the officer; and that counsel has not only been given by the Twelve Apostles, but by the First Presidency also. Something has been made out of a sermon that I preached in the large Tabernacle, and it was said that I had been advising rebellion. I stated that if a man holding an official position steps aside from his official capacity to personally insult another, the insulted man is not showing any contempt for an officer of the court by maintaining his rights. But I will here say I was called in question for saying this, and advised by the First Presidency not to preach such things as they would be misconstrued to mean something entirely different.

By City Attorney Richards: Do you know whether it is the disposition of the Mormon people to interfere with the rights of anyone?

A. I know it is their disposition not to interfere.

Q. Have you any reason to believe that the rights and liberties of the non-Mormon people are any less secure than those of the Mormons?

A. No, sir; they are equally secure.

Apostle Franklin D. Richards said: I wish to approve most cordially of the measures the city authorities are taking to ascertain

the facts in relation to these rumors. The general Government was once led to make a sad mistake through an infamous imputation against the people of this Territory, that they had destroyed the records of the District Court of Utah. I presume it will be remembered by some. It was on this account that a portion of the United States army was quartered here; but, when Governor Cumming came and took his place as Governor, it was found that the records were all safe, and they were all handed over to the proper authorities. Now, inasmuch as the Government has been led once to make a mistake of that kind, it is the duty of the people to make a prompt manifestation and let the truth be presented to the Government, that they may not be led into making another mistake of the same character.

Councilor Grant here suggested that, as there were representatives of the daily newspapers of the city present, who were more familiar perhaps with the current news than others, that they each be requested to state if they know of any foundation in fact for the rumors now being investigated.

Being called upon by the Mayor, the representative of the *News*, Mr Anderson, stated: "I know of nothing at all; I have heard of these things as rumors, but like the members of the council believe there is nothing in them."

Mr. Hart, of the *Tribune*, said: "I have heard of these rumors as I have been passing around the street. I simply passed them by as idle street rumors and placed no credit upon them. Some of the rumors, I must confess, I never heard before to-day. The others I heard as idle street rumors that are likely to float around at any time."

Mr. Whitney, of the *Herald*, said: "I do not think I have anything to say that will assist the council to find out anything further. Like Mr Hart, I have heard these things as rumors; some of them I have heard here to-day for the first time."

On motion of Councilor Clark, the Mayor was authorized to extend an invitation, through the newspapers of the city, to the general public to attend the investigation at 10 o'clock of the 8th, inst.

Marshal Phillips stated that he had just received a telephone message from Mr. W. M. Van Horn, who was unable to attend the investigation, but who reiterated that he had never seen any number of armed men riding on West Temple Street, and that he had never made any statement to that effect.

On motion of Councilor Grant, the special session adjourned to Tuesday, December 8th, at 10 o'clock a. m.



## CITY HALL, SALT LAKE CITY,

Tuesday, December 8th, 1885.

City Council met pursuant to adjournment in special session, at 10 a. m., Mayor Sharp presiding.

Roll called. All present, except Councilors Davis and Jennings.

The Mayor reported that in pursuance of authority of the Council, he had published in all the daily newspapers of the city the following notice:

*To the Inhabitants of Salt Lake City:*

At a special meeting of the City Council of this city, held Saturday, December 5th, 1885, it was decided that an official investigation of the many rumors in circulation at the present time affecting the peace and welfare of the city and its inhabitants be had, commencing Monday, December 7th, at 10 a. m. Invitations were immediately issued to all persons who, there was reason to suppose, had any knowledge concerning the rumors mentioned, to attend said investigation and furnish the Council with any information in reference thereto they might possess. In response to these invitations, a number of persons appeared, and their testimony was taken and duly considered.

For the purpose of giving the investigation the broadest possible scope, a respectful invitation is now extended to every inhabitant of the city and to all whom it may concern, to be present at said investigation at the City Hall, on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock and to furnish to the Council any and all information which they may be in possession of relative to the rumors aforesaid, their origin or spread, or to any other matter pertaining to the public tranquility.

JAMES SHARP, Mayor.

On motion of Alderman Pyper, the Mayor's action was approved.

Hon. Wm. Jennings being present, in response to invitation, stated as follows:

## STATEMENT OF HON. WM. JENNINGS.

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen:* I know nothing except what I have seen in the newspapers. I heard of these men coming into town on horse back, and that arms and ammunition were stored at the Tithing Office for use in case of an uprising. I have seen quite a number of people from the settlements, and I have talked with them; but



they all say there is nothing in these reports, so far as they know. I have been through the Tithing Office from time to time but never saw any ammunition or arms there except a few old muskets, which I saw there last week. I saw some old flint-lock muskets there, without ramrods; they looked like a lot of old broken remnants. I think perhaps there were twenty-five or thirty. I heard none of the citizens express themselves that they wanted to get into a fight. I was down town on Saturday at the time McMurrin was shot; when he was brought to the Hall here, just after the shooting, there was quite a crowd, but everything was quiet, and I heard of no boast what they were going to do. I own a great deal of property, and in case of a riot my property would be in danger. Still, at the same time, I do not think there is any danger at all. Everything is very quiet.

By Councilor Stringfellow: In your opinion do you think there is any appearance of anything that tends to an uprising?

A. No, sir, I don't.

Q. Do you think there has been any provocation that would justify military interference?

A. No, sir, I do not. I look upon it in this way, that when two men get into a little spat, even so far as to shoot each other, I do not think that has anything to do with the whole community. Sometimes it leads to trouble, but there is always enough good order in the City to keep such things down.

By City Attorney Richards: Have you any information that would lead you to believe that the property or lives of non-Mormons are insecure, or that military interference is necessary to their protection?

A. No, sir, I do not think so.

Q. Do you think the non-Mormons of this city have any occasion for feelings of insecurity?

A. No, sir, I don't think they have.

Q. You think then that no such necessity exists?

A. I do.

Q. Do you know of any instructions having been given by the Mormon people to effect organizations for military purposes?

A. I do not. The Mormons desire peace and quietness.

Q. Are you aware of the existence of any such organizations?

A. No, sir. My past experience teaches me that the people of this city are easily controlled.

Q. You think then these rumors are without foundation?

A. Yes, sir.

Councilor Grant moved that a committee of six be appointed, with the Mayor and City Attorney and Treasurer associated, to draft resolutions embodying the findings of this investigation, and report as soon as possible. Carried.

The Mayor appointed Alderman Dean, Councilors Grant, Wells, Webber, Stringfellow and Clark, as said committee.

The minutes were read and approved.

On motion of Councilor Pettit, the Council adjourned to the regular session at seven o'clock, p. m.

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CITY HALL SALT LAKE CITY,  
Tuesday, Dec 8th 1885.

The City Council convened in regular session, pursuant to adjournment, Mayor Sharp presiding.

Roll called. All present except Councilors Davis and Jennings.

### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

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SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 8th 1885.

*The Hon. the Mayor and City Council:*

*Gentlemen*—Your special committee to whom was referred the matter of drafting a preamble and resolutions embodying the result of the investigation by the Council into the rumors that have been circulated throughout the country, detrimental to the peace and welfare of the City and its inhabitants, beg leave to report the accompanying resolutions and recommend their adoption.

Very Respectfully,

JOSEPH H. DEAN.

H. J. GRANT.

T. G. WEBBER.

JOHN CLARK.

GEORGE STRINGFELLOW.

JUNIUS F. WELLS.

JAMES SHARP, Mayor.

F. S. RICHARDS, City Attorney.

ORSON F. WHITNEY, City Treasurer.

Special Committee.

On motion of Alderman Pyper, the report was approved. The resolutions were read as follows:

## RESOLUTIONS

*In relation to Current Rumors respecting the Peace, Reputation and Welfare of Salt Lake City.*

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*Whereas:* Certain rumors affecting the peace, reputation and welfare of Salt Lake City and its inhabitants are prevalent, and have been circulated abroad to the injury of the same, and

*Whereas:* To the knowledge of the city officials there was no cause existing on which these evil reports could be justly based, and

*Whereas:* Official notice appears to have been taken of said rumors by the general and military authorities of the nation, it became expedient that the Mayor and City Council of said city institute a thorough investigation of the same, that the facts upon which they were founded, if any existed, might be made known, and

*Whereas:* Such investigation has been held, at which federal officials of the Territory, military authorities of Fort Douglas and prominent residents and business men, and the citizens generally, were invited to be present to give such information as they might be in possession of respecting the peace and good order of said city, and the injurious rumors affecting the same, and

*Whereas:* After diligent and searching inquiries and the taking of reliable testimony, such rumors as had taken definite form and as were reported to the city officials, were refuted. Among these were the following, namely:

A body of armed men is said to have been seen riding into the city along West Temple Street before daylight on Monday morning, November 30th. This rumor was traced back by the City Marshal from the person who first gave the information to the Mayor, to one Mr. Van Horn, of the Continental Hotel, the only one who was reported to have seen the armed men, and he denies any knowledge whatever of the matter.

The rumor that armed men lined the road to the Penitentiary for the supposed purpose of taking Henry Collin from the custody of the United States officers, came to the City Marshal from United States Marshal Ireland, who admitted, however, that on going over the road he had seen nothing himself to justify the report, and could not name anyone who had. The City Marshal then rode out to the penitentiary, traversing both routes, making diligent inquiries of residents along the way, but could not learn that any armed men had been seen anywhere in the vicinity.

The rumor of threats made to lynch Collin after the shooting of McMurrin, on Saturday night, November 28th was refuted by City Marshal Phillips, who testified that he had heard no such threats on the night in question, and that the crowd at the City Hall did not exceed two hundred people and was quiet and orderly. The

assertion of Assistant District Attorney Varian to the City Marshal, that a rope had been seen in the crowd by one Thomas Curtis, was refuted by Curtis himself, who denied being at or near the City Hall at anytime on Saturday, and heard nothing of the shooting until Sunday morning.

The rumor that quantities of arms and ammunition were secreted in the general Tithing Store was ascertained to be false by a personal visit to the premises by General McCook and his adjutant, Mayor Sharp and City Attorney Richards. The General expressed himself as perfectly satisfied that the rumor was without foundation.

The report that the Mormons were arming themselves, and organizing for an outbreak under the direction of their leaders, and that in the outer settlements they had been ordered to be ready at a moment's notice to march to Salt Lake City, was met by the testimony of Apostles Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, John Henry Smith, Heber J. Grant and John W. Taylor, each of whom declared that from their personal knowledge the rumors were utterly untrue. Honorable John Sharp, William Jennings, and other prominent citizens testified to the same effect, and that such a condition of affairs as had been reported could not exist among the people without their knowledge.

Other rumors of insecurity to life and property were refuted, and others still were of so vague a character that it was impossible to trace them to any definite source, or give them tangible form. Therefore,

*Be it Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Salt Lake City,* that the reports or rumors of any condition of affairs other than of the most peaceful character prevailing at the present time in this city, are false.

That at no time in the history of this city have the lives and property of its non-Mormon inhabitants been more secure than now.

That the reports to the contrary have been accredited and circulated by federal officials of this Territory for some purpose best known to themselves.

That to the extent they or any others have circulated these false reports abroad, they have defamed the city and injured its people.

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On motion of Alderman Waddell the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

On motion of Alderman Waddell the Council adjourned.

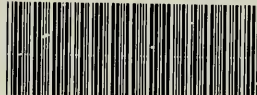
JAMES SHARP, Mayor.

Attest:

HEBER M. WELLS,  
Recorder.



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